

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC DIVISION

Child Passenger Safety Laws in Connecticut

LAW: Infants must remain rear facing until they are a minimum of both 20 pounds and one year old.

Recommended: Babies should be kept rear-facing until they are 2 years old or meet the maximum height or weight limit for their car seat when it is rear facing.

LAW: Toddlers must be in a car seat.

Recommended: Children should remain in a car seat until they reach the weight or height limit of their car seat (usually 40 pounds or more). Additionally, do not use a car seat that has been in a crash or has expired.

LAW: Children should ride in a car seat or booster seat until they reach 7 years old AND 60 pounds (they must meet both requirements). Children who ride in a booster seat must use a lap and shoulder belt.

Recommended: Children should continue to ride in a booster seat until the seat belt fits properly (fitting on their collarbone and hipbones, not on their neck and stomach).

LAW: Children, tweens and teens must be in a seat belt wherever they ride in the vehicle.

Recommended: Children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old. All people and objects should be properly restrained wherever they are in the vehicle.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ☒ Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
- ☒ Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- ☒ Refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system (not both).
- ☒ A booster seat is a seat that "boosts" the child up so that the seat belt fits properly. With a taller sitting height, the shoulder belt rides across the collarbone and the lap belt rides across the hipbone.
- ☒ Out of state vehicles must comply with Connecticut law for car seat requirements.

CHART GENERAL GUIDELINE

